

Message Text

SECRET

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53-R
ACTION SS-30

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 SSO-00 /031 W
----- 000857
O 181655Z MAR 74
FM AMEMBASSY MADRID
TO SECSTATE WASHDC IMMEDIATE 8435

S E C R E T MADRID 1776

EXDIS

E.O. 11652 GDS
TAGS: OVIP (CORTINA, PEDRO)
SUBJECT: SECRETARY'S LETTER TO SPANISH FOREIGN MINISTER

REF STATE 053299

1. FOREIGN MINISTRY HAS BEEN UNDER PRESSURE DURING PAST WEEK FROM PRESS FOR EXPLANATION OF POSTPONEMENT OF FOREIGN MINISTER'S MARCH 27 VISIT TO WASHINGTON. SO FAR MFA HAS NEITHER CONFIRMED POSTPONEMENT NOR RELEASED ANY BACKGROUND INFORMATION. MFA DIRECTOR GENERAL FOR NORTH AMERICAN AFFAIRS HAS CONVEYED TO EMBASSY FOREIGN MINISTER'S PERSONAL INTEREST IN INFORMING PRESS ON POSTPONEMENT, DRAWING ON INFORMATION PROVIDED IN REFTEL.

2. ASSUMING STATE'S APPROVAL, MFA PROPOSED TO STATE THAT FOREIGN MINISTER HAD RECEIVED PERSONAL COMMUNICATION FROM SECRETARY INFORMING HIM THAT IT HAS BEEN NECESSARY TO POSTPONE WASHINGTON VISIT BECAUSE OF DELAYS IN THE COMPLETION IN THE DRAFTING OF THE PARALLEL JOINT DECLARATIONS. WOULD CONTINUE BY SAYING THAT TENTATIVELY THE FOREIGN MINISTER'S VISIT HAS BEEN RESCHEDULED FOR SOME TIME DURING MAY, AT WHICH TIME A JOINT DECLARATION WOULD BE CONSIDERED ALONG WITH OTHER SUBJECTS OF MUTUAL INTEREST TO THE TWO COUNTRIES.

3. IF DEPARTMENT UNABLE TO APPROVE SUBSTANCE OF FOREGOING FOR RELEASE, EMBASSY WOULD APPRECIATE ALTERNATIVE

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SUGGESTIONS.

4. FYI EMBASSY UNDERSTANDS THAT, IN REPLY FOREIGN MINISTER
WILL EXPRESS PREFERENCE FOR VISIT EITHER EARLY OR
LATE MAY AS MID-MAY SCHEDULE NOW CROWDED WITH SEVERAL
EVENTS INCLUDING VISIT TO OECD-PARIS.
RIVERO

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NNN

Message Attributes

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